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United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

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Office of
General CounselIn Reply
Refer to:

B-194663

MAY 10 1979

Reasonableness of 14-Day Response Time Required By RFPThe Honorable Lawton Chiles
United States Senate

Dear Senator Chiles:

DLC 01586
This is in response to your letter dated April 16, 1979, on behalf of RFD, Inc. (RFD), Tampa, Florida, concerning a request for proposals (No. HCE-1134) issued by the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT). *CNA 00836* RFD asserts that COMSAT, by establishing a fourteen day response time in its request for proposals, did not afford offerors sufficient time to submit their proposals.

As you know, our authority to resolve Government contract award controversies rests on the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 (31 U.S.C. § 1, et seq. (1976)). *X* That statute provides that claims and demands against the United States will be settled and adjusted by the General Accounting Office, and further delegates authority to our Office to certify accounts.

✓ COMSAT, however, was established pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 731, et seq. (1976). Section 731 provides:

"There is authorized to be created a communications satellite corporation for profit which will not be an agency or establishment of the United States Government. * * *

Since COMSAT is not subject to our settlement authority, we have no jurisdiction in the matter. Generally, however, requests for proposals should provide a reasonable time for offerors to submit their proposals,



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circumstances permitting. We are unable to determine the reasonableness of the period established by COMSAT based on the information now before us.

We regret that we cannot be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

MILTON SOCOLAR
Milton J. Socolar
General Counsel